

Application/Control Number: 09/724,744

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- 1 (Original) A method of facilitating the transfer of intellectual property, the method comprising:
- obtaining in a computer system of a first entity information concerning intellectual property in which an interest is available for transfer (the "available intellectual property") from a second entity; and
- transferring the interest in the available intellectual property by concluding an agreement between the first and second entities,
- wherein the agreement is representative of an acceptance of an offer concerning the transferring of the interest in the available intellectual property and consideration for the transferring of the interest, and
- wherein at least a portion of the interest in the available intellectual property that is transferred to the first entity is intended to be transferred from the first entity to a third entity.
2. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the information obtained concerning the available intellectual property relates to the nature of the available intellectual property, and
- wherein the method further comprises:
- processing the information relating to the nature of the available intellectual property, wherein processing includes at least one of manipulating, converting, transforming, analyzing, reviewing, modifying and organizing the information; and
- obtaining additional information concerning the interest in the available intellectual property that is available for transfer (the "available interest") after
- completing the processing.

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3. (Original) The method of claim 2, wherein the processing allows for a determination concerning at least one of the financial value of the available intellectual property, the technological scope of the available intellectual property, the market/product coverage of the available intellectual property, the ownership/possession status of the available intellectual property, and whether there have been past inquiries received at the computer system of the first entity concerning the available intellectual property and, if so, the nature of the past inquiries.
4. (Original) The method of claim 2, further comprising:
 - processing the additional information concerning the available interest to determine if the available interest is desired for transfer by the first entity;
 - generating a proposed agreement for transferring the available interest if the
- 5 available interest is determined to be desired for transfer; and
 - providing the proposed agreement from the computer system of the first entity to another computer system of the second entity, wherein the computer system of the first entity is at least one of a computer system owned by the first entity and a server computer of an independent entity that is hosting a website for the first entity.
5. (Original) The method of claim 4, wherein the concluding of the agreement includes at least one of receiving an acceptance at the computer system of the first entity; and providing an acceptance from the computer system of the first entity, and further comprising providing payment upon the concluding of the agreement.
6. (Original) The method of claim 4, further comprising:
 - receiving an objection to the proposed agreement at the computer system; and
 - either responding to the objection by generating a new proposed agreement and providing the new proposed agreement from the computer system;
- 5 or responding to the objection by providing an acceptance from the computer system.

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7. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein
the information obtained concerning the available intellectual property relates to
the interest in the available intellectual property that is available for transfer
8. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
receiving an initial contact at the computer system;
providing descriptive information from the computer system concerning the first
entity;
- 5 obtaining identification information at the computer system concerning the
second entity; and
providing an identifier for future access
9. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
recording, on a database within the computer system, information regarding the
interest in the available intellectual property that is transferred in accordance with the
concluded agreement;
- 5 processing the information recorded on the database so that at least a portion of
the processed information can be utilized as descriptive information to be provided from
the computer system of the first entity to an IP exchange computer system.
- 10 (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:
checking a database of the computer system of the first entity to determine the
existence of a relevant past inquiry regarding intellectual property conforming to the
available intellectual property that is transferred in accordance with the concluded
agreement; and
- 5 contacting an IP desirer computer system from which the computer system of the
first entity received such a relevant past inquiry.
11. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein

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either the obtained information concerning the available intellectual property is obtained at the computer system from an IP exchange computer system, and the method further comprises providing a bid after obtaining the information concerning the available intellectual property;

or the method further comprises providing to the IP exchange computer system information regarding an intellectual property interest and then receiving a bid for the intellectual property interest.

12 (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the available intellectual property includes an intellectual property asset selected from among a patent, a trademark, a copyright, a patent application, an invention, and a trade secret; and

the interest in the available intellectual property includes at least one of a license to a portion of the intellectual property asset, a license to the entire intellectual property asset, complete ownership in the intellectual property asset, and a contingent interest in the available intellectual property that becomes perfected upon the occurrence of a condition.

13 (Original) A method of facilitating the transfer of intellectual property, the method comprising:

obtaining at a computer system of a first entity information concerning intellectual property in which a second entity desires to obtain an interest (the "desired intellectual property");

transferring the interest in the desired intellectual property by concluding an agreement between the first and second entities;

wherein the agreement is representative of an acceptance of an offer concerning the transferring of the interest in the desired intellectual property and consideration for the transferring of the interest.

wherein at least a portion of the interest in the desired intellectual property that is transferred from the first entity was transferred from a third entity to the first entity.

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1 (Original) The method of claim 13, further comprising:
 processing the information obtained concerning the desired intellectual property,
 wherein the information obtained concerning the desired intellectual property
 relates to at least one of the nature of the desired intellectual property and the interest in
 5 the desired intellectual property; and
 wherein the information obtained concerning the desired intellectual property is
 provided directly from the second entity, which is an IP desirer.

13. (Original) The method of claim 14,
 wherein the information obtained concerning the desired intellectual property
 relates to the nature of the desired intellectual property, and the processing of the
 information includes a determination of whether there is any intellectual property
 5 available to the first entity that conforms to the nature of the desired intellectual property;
 and

21 wherein the processing includes at least one of:
 checking a database of the computer system having information concerning
 intellectual property that is available to the first entity because it is at least in part
 10 possessed by the first entity;
 checking a database of past inquiries to the computer system from IP owners
 concerning intellectual property that may be transferable from the IP owners to the first
 entity; and
 providing a search request to an IP exchange computer system concerning
 15 intellectual property that is potentially transferable from IP owners via the IP exchange
 computer system

16. (Original) The method of claim 15, wherein the processing includes the checking
 of the database of past inquiries, and further comprising:
 contacting an IP owner computer system to arrange for a transfer of an interest in
 intellectual property conforming to the nature of the desired intellectual property when
 5 the database of past inquiries indicates that an inquiry was received, from the IP owner

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22 corresponding to the IP owner computer system, concerning intellectual property
 conforming to the nature of the desired intellectual property.

17. (Original) The method of claim 13, wherein:
 either the obtained information concerning the desired intellectual property is
 obtained at the computer system from an IP exchange computer system, and the method
 further comprises providing information concerning an intellectual property interest in
 5 response to the obtained information, and then receiving a bid for the intellectual property
 interest,

or the method further comprises providing, from the computer system to the IP
 exchange computer system, information regarding intellectual property in which an
 interest is desired by the first entity, receiving information concerning such intellectual
 10 property, and providing a bid to the IP exchange computer system.

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or the method further comprises providing, from the computer system to the IP exchange computer system, information regarding intellectual property in which an interest is desired by the first entity, receiving information concerning such intellectual property, and providing a bid to the IP exchange computer system.

18. A system for facilitating the transfer of intellectual property, the system comprising:

an intellectual property investment bank ("IPIB") computer system having a processor coupled to a memory, a user interface and at least one input/output device,

wherein the IPIB computer system is linked to and capable of communicating with at least one of an IP owner computer system, an IP desirer computer system, and an IP exchange computer system,

wherein the IPIB computer system is capable of receiving information concerning at least one of intellectual property that is available for transfer (the "available intellectual property") from an IP owner to an IPIB and intellectual property that is desired for transfer from the IPIB to an IP desirer (the "desired intellectual property"), and

wherein the IPIB computer system is capable of at least one of receiving or providing a signal indicating an acceptance of an offer concerning a transfer of the at least one of the available intellectual property and the desired intellectual property.

19. The system of claim 18, wherein

either the IPIB computer system includes a web server including a database and capable of hosting an IPIB website,

or the IPIB computer system is linked to and capable of communicating with a web server that hosts the IPIB website,

wherein the web server is linked to and capable of communication with the at least one of the IP owner computer system, the IP desirer computer system, and the IP exchange computer system via the internet, and the IPIB website can be accessed through the use of a browser and includes at least one user interface; and

wherein the memory includes at least one of information regarding intellectual property of an IPIB, information regarding past inquiries from IP owners, information

regarding past inquiries from IP desirers, information regarding proposed agreements and the generation of proposed agreements, information regarding the valuation of intellectual property, information regarding whether to at least one of accept and object to a proposed agreement, information regarding whether to at least one of accept and object to a bid, information regarding the operation and layout of the IPIB website, and information regarding identification of at least one of an IP owner and an IP desirer.

20. The system of claim 18, wherein the IPIB computer system includes a server computer that provides a graphical user interface (GUI) comprising input controls,

wherein the input controls include a set of menu items including at least one of a field for inputting identification information, a field for inputting information concerning the desired or available intellectual property, a field for inputting information concerning a particular interest in the desired or available intellectual property, a prompt for inputting information concerning the desired or available intellectual property, a prompt for inputting information concerning the particular interest in the desired or available intellectual property, and a field for inputting at least one of a proposed agreement and an objection, and a selection item for inputting an acceptance.

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21. (New) A method of facilitating transfers of intellectual property, the method comprising:

obtaining at a computer system of a first entity first information concerning first intellectual property in which a second entity desires to obtain a first interest;

transferring the first interest in the first intellectual property by concluding a first agreement between the first and second entities;

obtaining at the computer system of the first entity second information concerning one of the first intellectual property and second intellectual property in which a third entity desires to obtain a second interest; and

transferring the second interest in the one of the first intellectual property and the second intellectual property by concluding a second agreement between the first and third entities

22. (New) The method of claim 21, wherein the second interest that is transferred is in the first intellectual property, wherein the second interest differs from the first interest, and wherein the first agreement differs from the second agreement, and wherein the computer system allows for the concluding of the different first and second agreements.

23. (New) The method of claim 21, further comprising:

obtaining at the computer system of the first entity third information concerning at least one of the first intellectual property, the second intellectual property and third intellectual property in which a third interest is available for transfer from a fourth entity, wherein the third information is one of identical to at least one of the first information and the second information and different from the first information and the second information; and

transferring the third interest by concluding an agreement between the first and fourth entities, wherein the third interest is one of identical to at least one of the first and second interests and different from the first and second interests.

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24. (New) An internet-based method of executing a transaction involving a transfer of an interest in a property asset from a first party to a second party, the method comprising:

- (a) receiving at a computer system of the first party, from the second party via the internet, first information regarding a nature of the property asset;
- (b) obtaining at the computer system second information regarding at least one restriction concerning the property asset;
- (c) providing a proposed agreement onto the internet regarding the transfer of the interest in the property asset from the first party to the second party, wherein the agreement is reflective of the at least one restriction concerning the property asset; and
- (d) receiving an indication of acceptance of the proposed agreement by the second party,

whereby the transaction involving the transfer of the interest in the property asset between the first and second parties is executed.

25. (New) The internet-based method of claim 24, wherein the property asset is an intellectual property asset.

26. (New) The internet-based method of claim 25, wherein the first party is an intellectual property investment bank that owns the interest in the property asset prior to the transaction being executed.

27. (New) The internet-based method of claim 25, wherein the proposed agreement is at least partly generated in an automatic manner.

28. (New) The internet-based method of claim 25, wherein the property asset is a patent.

29. (New) The internet-based method of claim 28, wherein the first information regarding the patent includes at least one of a patent number, a filing date of the patent, an issue date of the patent, a technical subject matter of the patent, and a market with respect to which the patent is applicable.

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30. (New) The internet-based method of claim 23, wherein the second information includes at least one of: an indication of whether the second party wishes to fully purchase the patent; an indication of whether the second party wishes to license the patent; an indication of whether the second party wishes to receive an exclusive license to the patent; an indication of whether the second party wishes to receive a nonexclusive license to the patent; an indication of a time period during which the second party wishes to license the patent; an indication of a geographical region with respect to which the second party wishes to license the patent; an indication of whether there are limitations on sublicensing of the patent by the second party; an indication of whether there is a field of use restriction in relation to licensing of the patent; an indication of a royalty rate pertinent to licensing of the patent; and an indication confirming ownership of the property asset by the first party.

31. (New) The internet-based method of claim 30, wherein the second information is received off of the internet at the computer system.

32. (New) The internet-based method of claim 24, further comprising:
receiving at the computer system, via the internet, third information regarding a bid price for the interest in the property asset.

33. (New) The internet-based method of claim 24, further comprising, prior to (a):
receiving at the computer system, from the internet, at least one of the first information and third information regarding the nature of the property asset;
providing an additional proposed agreement onto the internet regarding an additional transfer of at least one of the interest in the property asset and an additional interest in the property asset; and
receiving an indication of acceptance of the proposed agreement by a third party,
whereby an additional transaction involving the property asset is executed between the first and third parties, so that the first party obtains the interest in the property asset that is subsequently transferred to the second party.

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34. (New) The internet-based method of claim 29, wherein the property asset is a real property asset

35. (New) A method of facilitating a transfer of a first interest in an intellectual property asset between first and second parties by way of a third party that is an intellectual property investment bank ("IPIB"), the method comprising:

transferring a second interest in the intellectual property asset from the first party to the IPIB by concluding a first agreement between the first party and the IPIB, wherein due to the transferring of the second interest the IPIB obtains at least one of an ownership stake in the intellectual property asset and a license to the intellectual property asset; and

transferring the first interest in the intellectual property asset from the IPIB to the second party by concluding a second agreement between the second party and the IPIB, wherein the second interest at least one of encompasses and is identical to the first interest.

wherein each of the first and second agreements is at least partly generated in an automatic manner based upon information received by the third party from the first and second parties.

36. (New) The method of claim 35, wherein the IPIB generates and provides at least one of the first and second agreements to at least one of the first and second parties via the internet.

37. (New) The method of claim 35, further comprising, prior to the transferring of the second interest:

receiving first information at the IPIB from the first party concerning a nature of the intellectual property asset; and

receiving second information at the IPIB from the first party concerning a requirement of the first party in relation to any transfer pertaining to the intellectual property asset

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33. (New) The method of claim 33, further comprising, subsequent to the transferring of the second interest but prior to the transferring of the first interest:

receiving first information at the IPID from the second party concerning a desired nature of the intellectual property asset; and

receiving second information at the IPID from the second party concerning a restriction of the second party in relation to any transfer pertaining to the intellectual property asset.

39. (New) The method of claim 38, wherein the intellectual property asset is a patent.

40. (New) The method of claim 39, wherein the first information regarding the patent includes at least one of a patent number, a filing date of the patent, an issue date of the patent, a technical subject matter of the patent, and a marker with respect to which the patent is applicable.

41. (New) The method of claim 39, wherein the second information includes at least one of: an indication of whether the second party wishes to fully purchase the patent; an indication of whether the second party wishes to license the patent; and indication of whether the second party wishes to receive an exclusive license to the patent; an indication of whether the second party wishes to receive a nonexclusive license to the patent; an indication of a time period during which the second party wishes to license the patent; an indication of a geographical region with respect to which the second party wishes to license the patent; an indication of whether there are limitations on sublicensing of the patent by the second party; an indication of whether there is a field of use restriction in relation to licensing of the patent; an indication of a royalty rate pertinent to licensing of the patent; and an indication confirming ownership of the property asset by the first party.

42. (New) The method of claim 33, wherein a computer system of the IPID is configured to conduct communications with computer systems associated with each of

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first and second parties by way of the internet, and wherein the computer system of the IPB performs processing based upon the first information.

43. (New) A method of facilitating a transfer of a first interest in an intellectual property between first and second parties by way of a third party that is an intellectual property investment bank (IPB) and a fourth party that is an intellectual property exchange, the method comprising at least one of (a) and (b) as follows:

(a) (i) transferring a second interest in the intellectual property asset from the first party to the IPB so that the IPB obtains the second interest in the intellectual property asset, wherein the second interest at least one of encompasses and is identical to the first interest;

(ii) providing first information regarding the intellectual property asset from the IPB to the intellectual property exchange;

(iii) receiving a first bid from the second party concerning the first interest in the intellectual property asset via the intellectual property exchange; and

(iv) executing a first agreement between the IPB and the second party so as to transfer the first interest in the intellectual property asset from the IPB to the second party; and

(b) (i) receiving second information regarding the intellectual property asset at the IPB from the intellectual property exchange;

(ii) providing a second bid from the IPB to the intellectual property exchange in relation to a third interest in the intellectual property asset, wherein the third interest at least one of encompasses and is identical to the first interest;

(iii) executing a second agreement between the IPB and the first party so as to transfer the third interest in the intellectual property asset from the first party to the IPB so that the IPB obtains the third interest in the intellectual property asset; and

(iv) transferring the first interest in the intellectual property asset from the IPB to the second party.

44. (New) An internet-based method of executing a transaction involving a transfer of an interest in an intellectual property asset between a first party and a second party, the method comprising:

(a) receiving at a computer system of the first party, from the second party via the internet, first information regarding a nature of the intellectual property asset;

(b) performing processing in order to evaluate whether the intellectual property asset is at least one of desirable to the first party and available for transfer by the first party, wherein the processing is performed at least partly by way of the computer system of the first party and in response to the receiving of the first information, and wherein the processing involves other than merely a selection of a price corresponding to the intellectual property asset;

(c) receiving at the computer system, from the second party via the internet, second information regarding an extent of the interest in the intellectual property asset, that is at least one of available for transfer from the second party to the first party and desired by the second party;

(d) providing a proposed agreement regarding the transfer of the interest in the intellectual property asset between the first party and the second party, wherein the proposed agreement is generated at least in part based upon the second information; and

(e) communicating between the first and second parties an indication of an acceptance of at least one of the proposed agreement and a modified version of the proposed agreement.

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whereby the transaction involving the transfer of the interest in the intellectual property asset between the first and second parties is executed

45. (New) The internet-based method of claim 44, wherein the processing is to evaluate whether the intellectual property asset is desirable to the first party, and wherein the processing includes at least one of:

- (1) performing a financial valuation of the intellectual property asset;
- (2) checking at least one of an ownership status of the intellectual property asset and a validity status of the intellectual property asset; and
- (3) assessing whether the intellectual property asset is potentially of interest to one or more third parties based upon a review of at least one past inquiry.

46. (New) The internet-based method of claim 45, wherein the processing includes performing the financial valuation, and wherein the financial valuation includes further at least one of:

- (i) analyzing a technology relating to the intellectual property asset;
- (ii) analyzing a product relating to the intellectual property asset; and
- (iii) analyzing a market for the product relating to the intellectual property asset.

47. (New) The internet-based method of claim 45, wherein the processing operation includes at least two of (1) - (3), and wherein the intellectual property asset is at least one of patent, a pending patent application, an invention, a trademark, a trade secret and a copyright.

48. (New) The internet-based method of claim 44, wherein the processing is to evaluate whether the intellectual property asset is desirable to the first party, and wherein the processing includes at least one of:

- (i) analyzing a technology relating to the intellectual property asset;
- (ii) analyzing a product relating to the intellectual property asset; and
- (iii) analyzing a market for the product relating to the intellectual property asset.

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49. (New) The internet-based method of claim 44, wherein the processing is to evaluate whether the intellectual property asset is desirable to the first party, wherein the proposed agreement is provided via the internet, and further comprising:

receiving at the computer system, from the internet, at least one of the first information and third information regarding the nature of the intellectual property asset;

providing an additional proposed agreement onto the internet regarding an additional transfer of at least one of the interest in the intellectual property asset and an additional interest in the intellectual property asset; and

receiving an indication of acceptance of at least one of the additional proposed agreement and a modified version of the additional proposed agreement by a third party,

whereby an additional transaction involving the intellectual property asset is executed between the first and third parties, so that the third party obtains the at least one of the interest and the additional interest in the intellectual property asset from the first party

50. (New) The internet-based method of claim 44, wherein the processing is to evaluate whether the intellectual property asset is available for transfer by the first party, and wherein the processing includes at least one of:

(1) checking an ownership status of the first intellectual property asset;

(2) reviewing secondary information concerning at least one additional interaction with a third party in which the first party has been involved; and

(3) attempting to conduct an acquisition of the intellectual property asset if it is determined based upon the processing that the intellectual property asset is not already owned by or licensed to the first party.

51. (New) The internet-based method of claim 44, wherein the processing is to evaluate whether the intellectual property asset is available for transfer by the first party, wherein the proposed agreement is provided via the internet, and further comprising:

receiving at the computer system, from the internet, at least one of the first information and third information regarding the nature of the intellectual property asset;

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providing an additional proposed agreement onto the internet regarding an additional transfer of at least one of the interest in the intellectual property asset and an additional interest in the intellectual property asset; and

receiving an indication of acceptance of at least one of the additional proposed agreement and a modified version of additional proposed agreement by a third party,

whereby an additional transaction involving the intellectual property asset is executed between the first and third parties, so that the first party obtains the interest in the intellectual property asset that is subsequently transferred to the second party.

32. (New) The internet-based method of claim 44, wherein the intellectual property asset is a patent, and wherein the proposed agreement is provided by the first party.

33. (New) The internet-based method of claim 32, wherein the first information regarding the patent includes at least one of a patent number, a filing date of the patent, a title of the patent, an issue date of the patent, patent expiration information, an inventor listed on the patent, patent ownership information, a technical subject matter of the patent, product information regarding a product within a scope of the patent, and a market with respect to which the patent is applicable.

34. (New) The internet-based method of claim 32, wherein the second information includes at least one of: an indication of whether the second party wishes to fully purchase the patent; an indication of whether the second party wishes to fully sell the patent; an indication of whether the second party wishes to license the patent; an indication of whether the second party wishes to at least one of receive and provide an exclusive license to the patent; an indication of whether the second party wishes to at least one of receive and provide a nonexclusive license to the patent; an indication of a time period during which the second party wishes to license the patent; an indication of a geographical region with respect to which the second party wishes to license the patent; an indication of whether there are limitations on sublicensing of the patent by at least one of the first party and the second party; an indication of whether there is a field of use restriction in relation to licensing of the patent; an indication of a royalty rate pertinent to

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licensing of the patent; and an indication confirming ownership of the property asset by at least one of the first party and the second party.

55. (New) The internet-based method of claim 44, further comprising at least one of:
 receiving at the computer system, via the internet, third information regarding identification information identifying the second party; and
 receiving at the computer system, via the internet, fourth information regarding a bid price for the interest in the intellectual property asset.

56. (New) An internet-based method of executing a transaction involving a transfer of an interest in an intellectual property asset to a first party from a second party, the method comprising:

(a) receiving at a computer system of the first party, from the second party via the internet, first information regarding a nature of the intellectual property asset;

(b) performing a valuation analysis to ascertain a value of the intellectual property asset, wherein the valuation analysis is performed at least partly in response to the receiving of the first information;

(c) receiving at the computer system, from the second party via the internet, second information regarding an extent of the interest in the intellectual property asset that is available for transfer from the second party to the first party;

(d) providing a proposed agreement regarding the transfer of the interest in the intellectual property asset to the first party from the second party, wherein the proposed agreement is provided onto the internet and is generated at least in part based upon the second information; and

(e) communicating between the first and second parties an indication of an acceptance of at least one of the proposed agreement and a modified version of the proposed agreement,

whereby the transaction involving the transfer of the interest in the intellectual property asset to the first party from the second party is executed.

57. (New) The internet-based method of claim 56, wherein the valuation analysis includes at least one of:

(i) checking an ownership status of the intellectual property asset;

(ii) analyzing a technology relating to the intellectual property asset;

(iii) analyzing a product covered by the intellectual property asset;

(iv) analyzing a market for the product covered by the intellectual property asset;

and

(v) assessing whether the intellectual property asset is potentially of interest to one or more third parties based upon a review of at least one past inquiry.

58. (New) The internet-based method of claim 56, and further comprising:

receiving at the computer system, from the internet, at least one of the first information and third information regarding the nature of the intellectual property asset;

providing an additional proposed agreement onto the internet regarding an additional transfer of at least one of the interest in the intellectual property asset and an additional interest in the intellectual property asset; and

receiving an indication of acceptance of at least one of the additional proposed agreement and a modified version of the additional proposed agreement by a third party,

whereby an additional transaction involving the intellectual property asset is executed between the first and third parties, so that the third party obtains the at least one interest and additional interest in the intellectual property asset from the first party.

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59. (New) A method of facilitating an overall transfer of at least one property interest in a patent asset between first and second parties by way of the web, the method comprising:

- (a) providing an interface by way of a computer system of an intermediary by which at least one of the first and second parties can communicate with the intermediary;
- (b) receiving identification information from at least one of the first and second parties;
- (c) obtaining first information concerning the patent asset, wherein the first information includes at least one of a number identifying the patent asset, a filing date, an issue date, expiration information, descriptive information concerning a technical subject matter of the patent asset, product information regarding a product that is within a scope of the patent asset, and market information regarding a market to which the patent asset pertains;
- (d) verifying at least one aspect of property rights of the first party in the patent asset;
- (e) performing at least one evaluation, wherein the evaluation relates to at least one of a financial value of the patent asset, a technological scope of the patent asset, a product coverage of the patent asset, a market for products covered by the patent asset, and whether there have been one or more past inquiries concerning the patent asset;
- (f) negotiating conditions for transfer of at least some of the first party's property rights;
- (g) transferring the at least some of the first party's property rights to the intermediary based on an agreement resulting from the negotiating of (f), whereby the at least some of the first party's property rights become property rights of the intermediary;
- (h) negotiating conditions for transfer of at least some of the intermediary's property rights; and
- (i) transferring the at least some of the intermediary's property rights to the second party based on an agreement resulting from the negotiating of (h).

59. (New) A method of facilitating an overall transfer of at least one property interest in a patent asset between first and second parties by way of the web, the method comprising:

- (a) providing an interface by way of a computer system of an intermediary by which at least one of the first and second parties can communicate with the intermediary;
- (b) receiving identification information from at least one of the first and second parties;
- (c) obtaining first information concerning the patent asset, wherein the first information includes at least one of a number identifying the patent asset, a filing date, an issue date, expiration information, descriptive information concerning a technical subject matter of the patent asset, product information regarding a product that is within a scope of the patent asset, and market information regarding a market to which the patent asset pertains;
- (d) verifying at least one aspect of property rights of the first party in the patent asset;
- (e) performing at least one evaluation, wherein the evaluation relates to at least one of a financial value of the patent asset, a technological scope of the patent asset, a product coverage of the patent asset, a market for products covered by the patent asset, and whether there have been one or more past inquiries concerning the patent asset;
- (f) negotiating conditions for transfer of at least some of the first party's property rights;
- (g) transferring the at least some of the first party's property rights to the intermediary based on an agreement resulting from the negotiating of (f), whereby the at least some of the first party's property rights become property rights of the intermediary;
- (h) negotiating conditions for transfer of at least some of the intermediary's property rights; and
- (i) transferring the at least some of the intermediary's property rights to the second party based on an agreement resulting from the negotiating of (h).

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59. (New) A method of facilitating an overall transfer of at least one property interest in a patent asset between first and second parties by way of the web, the method comprising:

- (a) providing an interface by way of a computer system of an intermediary by which at least one of the first and second parties can communicate with the intermediary;
- (b) receiving identification information from at least one of the first and second parties;
- (c) obtaining first information concerning the patent asset, wherein the first information includes at least one of a number identifying the patent asset, a filing date, an issue date, expiration information, descriptive information concerning a technical subject matter of the patent asset, product information regarding a product that is within a scope of the patent asset, and market information regarding a market to which the patent asset pertains;
- (d) verifying at least one aspect of property rights of the first party in the patent asset;
- (e) performing at least one evaluation, wherein the evaluation relates to at least one of a financial value of the patent asset, a technological scope of the patent asset, a product coverage of the patent asset, a market for products covered by the patent asset, and whether there have been one or more past inquiries concerning the patent asset;
- (f) negotiating conditions for transfer of at least some of the first party's property rights;
- (g) transferring the at least some of the first party's property rights to the intermediary based on an agreement resulting from the negotiating of (f), whereby the at least some of the first party's property rights become property rights of the intermediary;
- (h) negotiating conditions for transfer of at least some of the intermediary's property rights; and
- (i) transferring the at least some of the intermediary's property rights to the second party based on an agreement resulting from the negotiating of (h).

60. (New) The method of claim 59, wherein each of the first and second parties is a corporate entity, and wherein the patent asset includes at least one of a patent and a pending patent application.

61. (New) The method of claim 59, wherein the at least one aspect that is verified in (d) is selected from the group consisting of an ownership status and a validity status of the patent asset.

62. (New) The method of claim 59, wherein the conditions for transfer in (f) include one or more of a price, a royalty rate, another payment indication, and a condition identifying which of the first party's property rights are to be transferred, and

wherein the conditions for transfer in (h) include one or more of a price, a royalty rate, another payment indication, and a condition identifying which of the intermediary's property rights are to be transferred.

63. (New) The method of claim 62, wherein the at least some of the first party's property rights that are transferred include at least one of a full assignment and a first license, and wherein the at least some of the intermediary's property rights that are transferred include at least one of a full assignment, the first license and a second license, and wherein each assignment or license includes a respective set of associated property rights.

64. (New) The method of claim 63, wherein each license is selected from the group consisting of an exclusive license, a nonexclusive license, a license of limited duration in time, a license that is limited to a geographical region, a license in which there are limitations on sublicensing, a license in which sublicensing is authorized, a sublicense, and a license including a field of use restriction.

65. (New) The method of claim 59, further comprising:

prior to (f), obtaining additional information regarding an extent of the first party's patent rights that the first party is interested in transferring to the intermediary; or,

prior to (h), obtaining further information regarding an extent of the intermediary's patent rights that the second party is interested in having transferred from the intermediary.

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66. (New) The method of claim 59, wherein the interface includes at least one field for receiving input information, wherein at least a portion of one or more of the identification information, the first information, the conditions for transfer in (f), the conditions for transfer in (h), the agreement of (g), or the agreement of (i) is received by way of the at least one field of the interface via an internet-type network.

67. (New) The method of claim 66, wherein the computer system of the intermediary includes a server capable of hosting a website, and wherein the website hosted by the server is capable of providing a plurality of web pages that form at least a portion of the interface.

68. (New) The method of claim 59, wherein at least a portion of one or more of the identification information, the first information, the conditions for transfer in (f), the conditions for transfer in (h), the agreement of (g), or the agreement of (i) is obtained by the intermediary by at least one of prompting a user to answer a question, providing a selectable item, and providing an open entry space into which the user can provide a submission, or

wherein the intermediary receives username and password information from the first and second parties by way of the interface.

69. (New) The method of claim 59, wherein the intermediary is an investment bank for which facilitating intellectual property transfers is a primary business purpose.

70. (New) The method of claim 59, wherein at least one of following is performed automatically by way of the computer system of the intermediary: the verifying of the at least one aspect of the property rights; the evaluation; preparing of the agreement resulting from the negotiating of (f); and preparing of the agreement resulting from the negotiating of (h).

71. (New) The method of claim 59, wherein at least some of (a)-(h) are performed by at least one human being.

72. (New) The method of claim 71, wherein the evaluation is performed at least in part by an employee of the intermediary, and wherein the intermediary is in communication with at least one of the first and second parties by way of at least one email message.

73. (New) The method of claim 59, wherein the intermediary interacts with an exchange entity to at least one of browse or retrieve information from the exchange entity or to place or respond to a bid communicated via the exchange entity.

74. (New) The method of claim 73, wherein the computer system of the intermediary is in communication with an additional computer system of the exchange entity, and wherein the computer system of the intermediary employs software facilitating interactions with the additional computer system of the exchange entity.

75. (New) The method of claim 59, further comprising at least one of:

(i) comparing at least one of the technological scope of the patent asset, the product coverage of the patent asset, and the market for products covered by the patent asset with additional information received from a plurality of parties concerning needs of those parties relating to patent rights;

(ii) comparing a first description of a need of at least one additional party relating to patent rights with further information received from a plurality of further parties concerning patent assets available for transfer from those parties; and

(iii) consulting a public or private database to identify an owner of a desired patent asset and, upon identifying the owner, contacting the owner.

76. (New) A method of facilitating an overall transfer of at least one property interest in a patent asset between first and second parties by way of the web, the first and second parties each being a respective corporate entity, the method comprising:

(a) providing an interface by way of a computer system of an intermediary by which at least one of the first and second parties can communicate with the intermediary;

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- (b) receiving identification information from at least one of the first and second parties by way of at least one of the web, the internet, a mail delivery, a telephone connection and another communication linkage;
- (c) obtaining first information concerning the patent asset, wherein the first information includes at least one of a number identifying the patent asset, a filing date, an issue date, expiration information, descriptive information concerning a technical subject matter of the patent asset, product information regarding a product that is within a scope of the patent asset, and market information regarding a market to which the patent asset pertains;
- (d) verifying at least one aspect of property rights of the first party in the patent asset, wherein the verifying includes checking an ownership status of the patent asset;
- (e) performing at least one evaluation, wherein the evaluation relates to at least one of a financial value of the patent asset, a technological scope of the patent asset, a product coverage of the patent asset, a market for products covered by the patent asset, and whether there have been one or more past inquiries concerning the patent asset, the evaluation being performed at least in part by an employee of the intermediary;
- (f) negotiating conditions for transfer of at least some of the first party's property rights;
- (g) transferring the at least some of the first party's property rights to the intermediary based on an agreement resulting from the negotiating of (f), whereby the at least some of the first party's property rights become property rights of the intermediary;
- (h) negotiating conditions for transfer of at least some of the intermediary's property rights; and
- (i) transferring the at least some of the intermediary's property rights to the second party based on an agreement resulting from the negotiating of (h).

77. (New) The method of claim 77, wherein the intermediary is an investment bank for which facilitating intellectual property transfers is a primary business purpose, wherein at least some of (a)-(i) in addition to (e) are performed by at least one human being, and wherein the conditions for transfer in (f) include a requirement that either an assignment of the patent asset or a license to the patent asset be transferred.

78. (New) A method of facilitating an overall transfer of at least one property interest in a patent asset between first and second parties by way of the web, the first and second parties each being a respective corporate entity, the method comprising:

- (a) providing an interface by way of a computer system of an intermediary by which at least one of the first and second parties can communicate with the intermediary;
- (b) receiving identification information from at least one of the first and second parties;
- (c) obtaining first information concerning the patent asset, wherein the first information includes at least one of a number identifying the patent asset, a filing date, an issue date, expiration information, descriptive information concerning a technical subject matter of the patent asset, product information regarding a product that is within a scope of the patent asset, and market information regarding a market to which the patent asset pertains;
- (d) verifying at least one aspect of property rights of the first party in the patent asset;
- (e) performing at least one evaluation, wherein the evaluation relates to at least one of a financial value of the patent asset, a technological scope of the patent asset, a product coverage of the patent asset, a market for products covered by the patent asset, and whether there have been one or more past inquiries concerning the patent asset;
- (f) negotiating conditions for transfer of at least some of the first party's property rights;
- (g) transferring the at least some of the first party's property rights to the intermediary based on an agreement resulting from the negotiating of (f), whereby the at least some of the first party's property rights become property rights of the intermediary;
- (h) negotiating conditions for transfer of at least some of the intermediary's property rights; and
- (i) transferring the at least some of the intermediary's property rights to the second party based on an agreement resulting from the negotiating of (h).

wherein the transferring in one or both of (g) and (i) occurs by way of an additional exchange entity with which the intermediary interacts, and wherein at least one of (a)-(i) is performed at least in part by way of an employee of the intermediary.